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18 January 2005

RUS43199.E

Russia: Update to RUS32135.E of 23 June 1999 on name changes; whether the office retains or returns the applicant's documents if the latter does not specifically request to have the old documents back
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

In correspondence sent to the Research Directorate on 12 January 2005, the consul at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Montreal provided the following information. In order to grant an official name change in Russia, Russian authorities require an original birth certificate. The old certificate is returned to the applicant, and the new certificate indicates both the applicant's former and new names.

The consul provided the following additional information during a telephone interview conducted on 12 January 2005. According to the consul, it would be "impossible" that the Russian authorities not return the old birth certificate to the applicant. Authorities must never keep the certificates; they only use them for verification purposes and then return them to their owner. The consul went on to state that name change procedures can only take place in Russia.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection.

References

Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Montreal. 12 January 2005. Correspondence from the consul.

_____. 12 January 2005. Telephone interview with the consul.

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